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 INFORMATION FROM
 FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

REPORT

CD NO.

STAT

COUNTRY Armenian Minority

SUBJECT Political

DATE OF
INFORMATION 1952HOW
PUBLISHED Daily newspaper

DATE DIST. 21 Apr 1952

WHERE
PUBLISHED Boston

NO. OF PAGES 2

DATE
PUBLISHED 28 Mar 1952

LANGUAGE Armenian

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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SOURCE Hairenik.DASHNAKS HESITATE TO JOIN CAUCASIAN UNION

In its January 1952 edition, the Munich Turki-language monthly periodical Kavkasya undertook a superficial analysis of the problems involved in establishing co-operation and unity of purpose among the various Caucasian peoples. Having recognized the advantages of such a union, Kavkasya concludes: "It is extremely important that the responsible national leaders of the Caucasian peoples be summoned together once more to consider the means which would make it possible to create a single, central political body empowered to determine and implement a united policy for the Caucasian nations."

We know that Kavkasya is pursuing an anti-Communist course. Its editor, Kantemir, is well known to our Dashnak leaders.

That there is a strong need for grouping and organizing the forces of the Armenian, Georgian, and Azerbaijan peoples, as well as those of the more than 30 Mohammedan sects living in the Northern Caucasus, cannot be denied. The need for unity is particularly evidenced by the fact that these peoples are threatened with extinction by the same nefarious regime. Today, the Armenians, Georgians, Tartars, and the rest of the Caucasian peoples are being driven toward a nearly identical fate.

For 30 years, this idea of unity has been a constantly recurring issue among our peoples. Yet, we have failed to take a single step toward understanding one another.

The Armenian nation has a strong claim against Turkey, the "guardian angel" of Azerbaijan. The Turks and Azerbaijanis, firmly allied by bonds of religion and blood, show no sympathy whatsoever for the Armenian cause. The Georgians, if we are not mistaken, have always exhibited a favorable disposition toward the successors of Ataturk.

Neither Georgia nor Azerbaijan demonstrated to us in 1920 any belief in the principle of neighborliness. On the contrary, they did everything within their power to defeat our efforts at national survival. Who would venture to

- 1 -

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guarantee that when the proper time comes, these two nations will extend any palpable assistance to the Armenian people in its struggle to realize its dream of freedom and to regain its lost territories? No such inspiration or hope can be derived from the past performances of the Georgians and Azerbaijanis.

Furthermore, what assurances can Kantemir and his associates give us that they will return to Armenia the seized provinces of Nakhichevan, Akhalkalaki, and Kantsak?

We are weary of sweet-sounding speeches.

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- 2 -

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